

## Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /080 W

----- 089570

R 151605Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 716

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AF/W FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC CORPS MEETING WITH EXTAFF COMMISSIONER

REF: LAGOS 7641

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING AUGUST 15 COMMISSIONER GARBA REAFFIRMED NIGERIAN COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND TO OBLIGATIONS OF PREVIOUS REGIME. HIS ASSURANCE OF OPEN, APPROACHABLE MEA ATTITUDE WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS. END SUMMARY.

2. HEADS OF MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WERE INVITED TO MEET EXTAFF COMMISSIONER COLONEG J. N. GARBA AT FEDERAL PALACE HOTEL, NOON, AUGUST 15. OCCASION WAS VERY CONGENIAL. COMMISSIONER AND PERMSEC SANUSI GREETED CHIEFS OF MISSION WARMLY AT DOOR OF RECEPTION HALL AND SUBSEQUENTLY MIXED INFORMALLY FOR DRINKS AND CHAT, AS DID DEPUTY PERMSEC, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER MEA OFFICIALS.

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3. COMMISSIONER THEN ADDRESSED CORPS BRIEFLY, WELCOMING THEM AND SAYING HE HAD WANTED TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO THEM AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE INFORMAL AND PLEASANT TO DO IT THIS WAY THAN AT MEA. GARBA ASSURED CORPS FMG WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL, WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UN, COMMONWEALTH, ECOWACS, LOME CONVENTION (HE FORGOT OAU), AND WILL HONOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. GARBA SAID HE WANTED TO BE ACCESSIBLE AND INVITED HEADS OF MISSION TO CALL HIM AND COME TO SEE HIM OR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS. SAID HE UNDERSTOOD CORPS HAD NOT FOUND IT TOO EASY TO DO THIS UNDER PREVIOUS REGIME (APPRECIATIVE LAUGHTER FROM CROPT). GARBA ENDED WITH PLEA THAT CHIEFS OF MISSION REPORT OBJECTIVELY ON FMG PERFORMANCE, BOTH GOOD AND BAD, AND NOT HESITATE TO COME AND TELL HIM FRANKLY AND HONESTLY HOW THEY THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING. HE SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO CORRECT ERRORS AND IMPROVE PERFORMANCE.

4. ACTING DEAN IGNATOV (BULGARIA) RESPONDED WITH THANKS ON BEHALF OF THE CORPS, SAID HE WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE RECEPTION AND GARBA'S WORDS, AND OBSERVED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCH MEETING OF THE CORPS WITH MEA IN THE SIX YEARS HE HAD BEEN IN LAGOS (APPLAUSE). HE WELCOMED THE CHANGE AND SAID HE HOPED THE CORPS COULD MEET WITH GARBA ON A REGULAR BASIS, LIKE THIS OR AT MEA. HE OBSERVED THAT THE CORPS HAD A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS THAT HAD NOT RECEIVED PROPER ATTENTION AT THE MINISTRY AND WOULD WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THEM. HE ADDED THAT THE CORPS WOULD ALSO WELCOME AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE HEAD OF STATE.

5. GARBA RESPONDED WITH A TOAST TO THE CORPS AND MUTUAL COOPERATION.

6. COMMENT: MEETING AND ATMOSPHERE WERE PRECISELY WHAT CORPS WOULD HAVE WISHED. GARBA WAS RELAXED, HAD HIS FEW POINTS WELL IN HAND, SPOKE SIMPLY AND EFFECTIVELY. HE SAID THE RIGHT THINGS, AND AS WITH OTHER ACTIONS OF THE MUHAMMED GOVERNMENT, THE INITIAL IMPRESSION WAS POSITIVE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVERYONE PRESENT WAS PALPABLY AND VISIBLY AWARE THAT THE PALL OF PERMSEC IYALLA HAD AT LAST BEEN LIFTED.

7. NO MENTION OF THE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION. CROSBY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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